In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for safely accessing shared storage media in a computer environment having two or more nodes comprising:

      reading a storage media label in response to an access request to storage media;

      obtaining a hardware identifier from said storage media;

      comparing said hardware identifier of said storage media with a hardware identifier field of said label;

      establishing access rights of said nodes to said storage media, the step of establishing access rights is responsive at least in part to a hard attribute of said shared storage media, <u>and includes creating said label including said hard attribute, a type field, and a node identifier field</u> ~~wherein said hard attribute includes said hardware identifier field having data selected from a group consisting of: a vendor number, a serial number, and combinations thereof~~;

      <u>determining whether to allow access of a requesting node to said storage media by matching said node identifier of said requesting node to said node identifier of said label;</u>

      <u>allowing access of said requesting node to said storage media in response to said match of said node identifier of said requesting node with said node identifier of said label;</u> and

      accessing said storage media by ~~one of~~ said ~~nodes~~ <u>requesting node</u> according to said access rights.

2.   Canceled

3.   Canceled

4.   Canceled

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim <u>1</u> ~~3~~, <u>further comprising</u> ~~wherein~~ said <u>label having</u> ~~label further includes:~~ a cluster identifier; and

further comprising ~~the step of allowing access of a node in a cluster to said storage media if when said type field indicates said storage media is cluster-owned and said cluster identifier matches a cluster identifier of said node~~ determining whether to allow access of said requesting node to said storage media by matching said cluster identifier of said requesting node to said storage media cluster identifier;

allowing access of said requesting nodes to said storage media in response to said match of said cluster identifier of said requesting node with said storage media cluster identifier; and

accessing said storage media by said requesting nodes according to said access rights.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein said label further includes an activity interval field and an activity counter field for protecting ownership of said storage media.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer environment is a storage area network.

8. (Currently Amended) A computing environment comprising:

two or more nodes;

shared storage media;

said storage media having a label and a hard attribute;

said label having a node identifier field;

an access manager to read said label in response to a storage media access request from one of said nodes, to obtain a hardware identifier from said storage media, and to compare said ~~hardware~~ node identifier of said storage media with a hardware identifier field in said label;

~~said hardware identifier field having data selected from a group consisting of: a vendor number, a product number, a serial number, and combinations thereof;~~ and

said manager to allow ~~provide~~ access of said requesting node to said storage media responsive to a match of said node identifier of said requesting node with said node identifier of said label; and

access to said storage media by said requesting node based upon said match ~~at least in part to receipt of said hard attribute~~.

9. Canceled

10. Cancel

11. Cancel

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein said label further includes a cluster identifier field; and further comprising ~~a positive access response from said access manager if said type field indicates said media is cluster-owned and said cluster identifier matches a cluster identifier of said node.~~ said manager to <u>allow</u> access <u>of said requesting node</u> to said storage media responsive <u>to a match of said cluster identifier of said requesting node with said cluster identifier of said label</u>.

13. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said label further comprises an activity data field and an activity counter field to protect ownership of said media.

14. (Currently Amended)   An article comprising:
        a computer-readable recordable data storage medium;
        means in the medium for reading a storage media label in response to an access request to shared storage media;
        means in the medium for obtaining a hardware identifier from said storage media;
        means in the medium for comparing said hardware identifier of said storage media with a hardware identifier field of said label;
        means in the medium for accessing shared storage media, said shared storage media having a hard attribute including a <u>label having a type field and a node identifier field</u> ~~hardware identifier field having data selected from a group consisting of: a vendor number, a product number, a serial number, and combinations thereof;~~

means in the medium for <u>determining whether to allow access of a requesting node to said storage media by matching said node identifier of said requesting node to said node identifier of said label</u> ~~establishing access rights of at least two nodes to said storage media at least in part in response to receipt of said hard attribute~~; and

means in the medium for ~~managing an~~ <u>allowing</u> access <u>of said requesting node</u> ~~request~~ to said storage media <u>in response to a match of said node identifier of said requesting node with said node identifier of said label; and</u> ~~according to said access rights~~

<u>accessing said storage media by said requesting node based upon said match.</u>

15. Cancel

16. Cancel

17. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 14, <u>further comprising said label having a cluster identifier field,</u> wherein said managing means grants a positive access request to a node in a cluster responsive to confirmation of cluster ownership of said media.

18. (Currently Amended)   A method for safely access shared storage media in a computing environment having two or more nodes comprising:

writing a label, said label being determined at least in part by a hardware identifier of said storage media, said hardware identifier including <u>a node identifier field</u> ~~data selected from a group consisting of: a vendor number, a product number, and a serial number of said storage media~~;

reading said label in response to an access request to said storage media;

obtaining said hardware identifier from said storage media;

comparing said hardware identifier ~~field~~ of said storage media with a hardware identifier field of said label<u>, including comparing a node identifier of a requesting node with a node identifier in said label;</u>

<u>allowing</u> ~~establishing~~ access ~~rights~~ of ~~a~~ <u>said requesting</u> node to said storage media <u>if said label indicates said storage media is node-owned and said node identifier in</u> said label <u>matches a</u>

node identifier of said requesting node; and

~~coordinating access to~~ accessing said storage media by said requesting node according to said label.

19. Cancel

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of allowing access of a node in a cluster to said media if a type field in said label indicates said storage media is cluster-owned and a cluster identifier in said label matches a cluster identifier of said requesting node.